Suicides

†418. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are committing suicides due to poor economic conditions;

(b) the number of such cases brought to the notice of Government during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) the details of measures taken by Government for providing relief, especially to farmers having insufficient tillage; and

(d) the details of outcome of relief measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Farmers are committing suicides broadly due to the following reasons:

* Crop failure
* Indebtedness
* Drought
* Social & economic insecurity

(b) A statement indicating State-wise figures of suicide during recent years as reported by the State Governments, is annexed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, involving a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. The implementation of the Package is in progress. The initiatives taken by the Government have provided relief to the farmers.

A comprehensive credit policy was announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to farmers. The flow of agricultural credit during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 has exceeded the target that was fixed for the same. For the year 2006-07 the target for farm credit has been fixed at Rs. 175000 crore. The Government in the Union Budget (2006-07) has decided to ensure that the farmer receives short term credit upto Rs. 3 lakh at the interest of 7% per annum. Measures are also underway for revamping the Cooperative Credit Structure.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers in States

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	378
		2006-07 (upto November)	104
2.	Karnataka	2003-04	708
		2004-05	271
		2005-06	152
		2006-07 (upto November)	71*
3.	Maharashtra	2003-04	173
		2004-05	622
		2005-06	577
		2006-07 (upto October 31)	1843
4.	Tamil Nadu	2000—2006	26
5.	Punjab	2003	13
		2004	11
		2005	6
6.	Kerala	2003	50
		2004	101
		2005	119
		2006-07 (upto December)	98
7.	Gujarat	2003	3
		2004	7
		2005	7
		2006-07 (upto May)	1

* Includes cases pending with Committee for want of information.

Source: As reported by State Governments.